GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3575
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
DEPORTATION OF BURMESE REFUGEES
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has issued notices to Union Government and the Government of Mizoram for alleged detention and forcible deportation of Chin Burmese to Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the number of Chin Burmese living in Mizoram; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check illegal migrants from Myanmar and also from other neighbouring countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a)&(b): National Human Rights Commission took cognizance of a reference made to it by Emma Blower of the South Asia Team, Amnesty International, alleging forcible return of ethnic Chin asylum seekers from Myanmar by Government of Mizoram and issued notices to the Union Government and Government of Mizoram for their response.

Government of Mizoram have informed that a special drive was indeed carried out to detect and push back only those Myanmarese nationals who were indulging in illicit practices like drug trafficking, smuggling, brewing and selling of prohibited liquor and those with criminal background who entered Mizoram on their own accord and leave as they please and whose lives are not in danger in Myanmar.

(c): It is very difficult to arrive at an estimate about the number of chin living in Mizoram as they enter surreptitiously and mix with the local population due to their ethnic and linguistic similarities.

(d): All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been delegated powers under the different Acts governing entry, stay, movement of foreigners including the power to detect and deport illegally staying foreigners. Instructions are also being reiterated to them from time to time.